

Regulations for the Examinations for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists in Clinical Radiology

Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists (FRCR) may be obtained by examination after 34 months of full-time clinical radiology training. Training may be undertaken within UK or non-UK training schemes.

GENERAL

- (a) **Clinical Experience:** No specific duration of clinical (non-radiological) experience is required to enter the examinations.
- (b) **Flexible (Part-time) Training:** All periods of time specified in this document are whole time equivalent (WTE).
- (c) **Absence from Training:** Absence on sick leave or maternity leave reduces the time spent in radiology training and may affect examination eligibility. Candidates should contact the examinations office prior to applying online, to ascertain their eligibility for the examination.
- (d) **College Membership:** Those undertaking specialty training in the UK are required to be enrolled with the College as trainees, to maintain membership throughout their training and must be up-to-date with their subscription in order to enter any part of the FRCR Examination.
- (e) **GMC Registration:** Candidates must have appropriate General Medical Council Registration for any periods of training undertaken in the UK.
- (f) **Candidate Identification:** Candidates who are registered with the GMC must enter the examination using the format of name in which they appear on the GMC Medical Register. Candidates who are not registered with the GMC must enter the examination in the name that appears on their passport. Candidates must use exactly the same format of name each time they enter any part of the FRCR examinations.
- (g) **Confirmation of training:** Candidates who are undertaking specialty training in the UK must obtain approval from their training programme director prior to applying for any examination. Candidates who are not training in the UK should confirm the current location of training (or previous location if training has already been completed).
- (h) **Exemption:** No exemption is granted from any part of the FRCR Examination on the basis of experience or other qualifications.
- (i) **Attempts:** From Spring 2015 no candidate will automatically be permitted more than six attempts at any FRCR examination or examination module. In order to attempt an examination or examination module for a seventh, or further, time candidates will have to demonstrate additional educational experience. Any examination or examination module a candidate has previously taken counts towards his or her six attempts i.e. the rule is backdated to include previous attempts.

FIRST EXAMINATION FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

Eligibility and content: The First FRCR Examination comprises two modules: physics and radiological anatomy. The physics module covers UK ionising radiation legislation, patient safety and the physical principles that underpin diagnostic medical imaging and is examined by a single multiple choice question (MCQ) paper. The anatomy module covers radiological anatomy across all body systems and imaging modalities and is examined by an image viewing session.

There is no requirement to attempt or pass the modules in any order, nor any restriction on the number of modules that can be attempted at a single sitting. Candidates need to pass both modules in order to be deemed to have achieved overall success in the First FRCR Examination.

Applicants need to hold a formal clinical radiology training post, in which they are actively receiving clinical radiology training, (or to have held such a post in the past) in order to enter the First FRCR Examination. No minimum period of clinical experience or clinical radiology training is required in order to enter. Trainees following the UK curriculum for Nuclear Medicine which includes clinical radiology are eligible for entry to the First FRCR. There is no requirement to provide confirmation that a candidate has undertaken formal training or lecture course attendance covering the examination syllabus for the modules to be entered.

Anatomy ballot: Candidates who are undergoing formal specialist training in the UK are guaranteed a place at the Anatomy module; overseas trained candidates will be offered places not taken by UK trainees via a ballot system following the application closing date. There is no cap on the number of candidates attempting the Physics module.

Attempts: Candidates who made one, two or three unsuccessful attempts at the First FRCR Examination prior to December 2002 (including attempts at examinations that granted exemption from that examination) and/or one or two unsuccessful attempts at the First FRCR Examination between December 2002 and March 2009 will be permitted to enter the current examination. Candidates who made four unsuccessful attempts at the First FRCR Examination prior to December 2002 (including attempts at examinations that granted exemption from that examination) or three unsuccessful attempts at the First FRCR Examination between December 2002 and March 2009 will not be permitted to enter the current examination.

FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

The Final FRCR Examination is in two parts: Part A and Part B. Candidates are not permitted to attempt both Part A and Part B at the same sitting. Candidates must have passed the First FRCR Examination prior to entering the Final FRCR Part A Examination and the Final FRCR Part A Examination prior to entering the Final FRCR Part B Examination.

Part A of the Final Examination for the Fellowship

The Final FRCR Part A Examination comprises:

- Cardiothoracic and Vascular
- Musculoskeletal and Trauma
- Gastro-intestinal (including liver, biliary, pancreas and spleen)
- Genito-urinary, Adrenal, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Breast
- Paediatric
- Central Nervous and Head & Neck (including spine, eyes, ENT, salivary glands and dental)

There are two papers (each paper is three hours in duration) examined by single best answer (SBA) covering all imaging modalities, and including some anatomy and techniques. Candidates need to pass both papers at one sitting in order to be deemed to have achieved overall success in the Final FRCR Part A Examination.

Applicants must have acquired 24 months in a formal clinical radiology training post by the month which the examination is taken and to have passed the First FRCR Examination in order to enter the Final FRCR Part A Examination.

Part B of the Final Examination for the Fellowship

The Final FRCR Part B Examination comprises

- a reporting session
- a rapid reporting session
- two oral examinations

The three components of the Final FRCR Part B Examination are held during a single week twice a year, normally in April and October. In the oral examinations, each candidate is examined by two pairs of examiners, all of whom are clinical radiologists.

Candidates who have passed the Final FRCR Part A Examination are permitted to enter the Final FRCR Part B Examination upon completion of 34 months in a formal clinical radiology training post.

Candidates who are unsuccessful overall will be required to resit all three components when attempting the examination again. After two unsuccessful attempts at the Final FRCR Part B Examination, the performance of a candidate who is undertaking specialty training in the UK will be reviewed and information provided to the candidate's training programme director to assist with preparation for a further attempt.

ADMISSION TO THE FELLOWSHIP

Before being allowed to use the title of Fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists [FRCR], successful candidates in the Final FRCR Part B Examination must formally be admitted to the Fellowship. Those who are not already Members of the Royal College of Radiologists must become Members before admission can occur. Admission Ceremonies and receptions are held twice a year, normally in May and November.

In order to preserve the entitlement to use the letters FRCR after their names, those who have been admitted to the Fellowship must maintain good standing with the Royal College of Radiologists through continued payment of the annual membership subscription.

CHANGES

Changes to the regulations, content and format of the examinations are made from time to time.